

FACE Program Fact Sheet

Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation

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Farm Worker Dies after Being Struck by a Flywheel of a Haybaler

BACKGROUND

The Wisconsin Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) Program received 102 reports of occupational fatalities that occurred in 2000. Twenty-two of the victims were farmers or farm workers.

This fact sheet describes an incident where a farm worker died while repairing a power-take-off (PTO)-powered haybaler. Help save lives by passing this information along to farmers and others who operate or repair PTO-powered equipment.

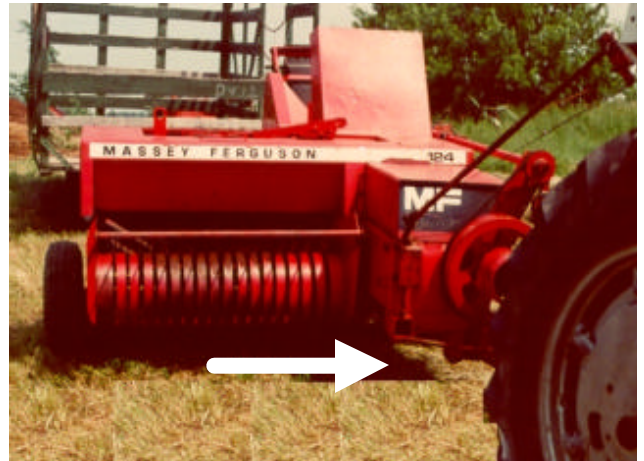


Figure 1. The arrow indicates the victim's location.

THE INCIDENT

A 56-year-old male farm worker died while repairing a PTO-powered haybaler. He was lying on his side under the baler, oiling a chain, while the baler was operating. He was struck on the top of his head by a flywheel when the bale tosser cycled (Figure 1). The victim's son had been working nearby, and approached the area to ask his father when the baler would be ready for field use. When the victim failed to respond, the son noted the head injury and called for help. EMS responders arrived at the scene within several minutes. The victim was pronounced dead at the scene by the medical examiner.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To prevent similar occurrences, farmers should:

- **Disengage the PTO and stop the tractor engine before doing machine adjustments, repairs or maintenance.**
- **include safety management as a basic part of their farm operation.**

The Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, in agreement with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) conducts research on occupational fatalities. The Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) Program focuses on identifying factors that increase the risk of work-related fatal injuries. The Wisconsin FACE Program helps in the development and use of improved safety measures for preventing fatal work injuries.

PLEASE POST

FACE information is produced and distributed to provide current, relevant education on methods to prevent severe work-related injuries.

If you have comments or questions, please call the FACE Project at 608/266-7298, or write:

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